

Senate Bill 84

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Williams of the 19th, Cowser of the 46th, Rogers of the 21st, Johnson of the 1st and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provisions relating to eligibility for
3 election as a local board of education member; to provide for legislative findings; to limit the
4 size of local boards of education; to revise provisions relating to per diem and expenses of
5 local board of education members; to revise certain provisions relating to the secretary of
6 local boards of education; to provide for the fundamental roles of local boards of education
7 and local school superintendents; to prohibit certain conflicts of interest of board members;
8 to provide for a code of ethics for local board of education members; to provide for removal
9 of board members under certain circumstances; to revise provisions relating to eligibility for
10 appointment as a school superintendent; to revise provisions relating to training of local
11 board of education members; to provide for submission of certain provisions of this Act for
12 preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related
13 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **SECTION 1.**

16 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
17 secondary education, is amended by adding a new Code section to Article 3, relating to local
18 boards of education, to read as follows:

19 "20-2-49.

20 The General Assembly finds that local boards of education play a critical role in setting the
21 policies that lead to the operation and success of local school systems. School board
22 members hold special roles as trustees of public funds, including local, state, and federal
23 funds, while they focus on the singular objective of ensuring each student in the local
24 school system receives a quality basic education. Board duties require specialized skills
25 and training in the performance of vision setting, policy making, approving multimillion
26 dollar budgets, and hiring a qualified superintendent. The motivation to serve as a member

27 of a local board of education should be the improvement of schools and academic
 28 achievement of all students. Service on a local board of education is important citizen
 29 service. Given the specialized nature and unique role of membership on a local board of
 30 education, this elected office should be characterized and treated differently from other
 31 elected offices where the primary duty is independently to represent constituent views.
 32 Local board of education members should abide by a code of conduct and conflict of
 33 interest policy modeled for their unique roles and responsibilities. And although there are
 34 many measures of the success of a local board of education, one is clearly essential:
 35 maintaining accreditation and the opportunities it allows the school system's students."

36 **SECTION 2.**

37 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-51, relating to election of
 38 county board of education members, persons ineligible to be members or superintendent,
 39 ineligibility for local boards of education, and ineligibility for other offices, as follows:

40 "20-2-51.

41 (a) No person shall be eligible for election as a member of a local board of education who
 42 is not a resident of the school district in which that person seeks election and of the election
 43 district which such person seeks to represent. Whenever there is in a portion of any county
 44 a local school system having a board of education of its own, receiving its pro rata of the
 45 public school fund directly from the State School Superintendent and having no dealings
 46 whatever with the local board, then the members of the board of such county shall be
 47 selected from that portion of the county not embraced within the territory covered by such
 48 local system.

49 (b) Whenever a member of a local board of education moves that person's domicile from
 50 the district which that person represents, such person shall cease to be a member of such
 51 local board of education, and a vacancy shall occur. The member shall provide notice of
 52 such move to the secretary of the local board of education and the election superintendent
 53 within ten days of such move.

54 (c)(1) No person ~~employed by or~~ serving on the governing body of a private elementary
 55 or secondary educational institution shall be eligible to serve as a member of a local
 56 board of education.

57 (2) No person employed by a local board of education shall be eligible to serve as a
 58 member of that board of education.

59 (3) No person employed by the Department of Education or serving as a member of the
 60 State Board of Education shall be eligible to serve as a member of a local board of
 61 education. ~~This paragraph shall not apply to institutions above the high school level.~~

62 ~~(2)(4)(A)~~ No person who has an immediate family member sitting on a local board of
 63 education or serving as the local school superintendent or as a principal, assistant
 64 principal, or system administrative staff in the local school system shall be eligible to
 65 serve as a member of such local board of education. As used in this paragraph, the term
 66 'immediate family member' means a spouse, child, sibling, or parent or the spouse of
 67 a child, sibling, or parent whose employment as the local school superintendent or as
 68 a principal, assistant principal, or system administrative staff in the local school system
 69 began on or after January 1, 2010. This paragraph shall apply only to local board of
 70 education members elected or appointed on or after July 1, 2009. Nothing in this Code
 71 section shall affect the employment of any person who is employed by a local school
 72 system on or before July 1, 2009, or who is employed by a local school system when
 73 an immediate family member becomes a local board of education member for that
 74 school system.

75 (B) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-244, in local school systems
 76 in which the initial fall enrollment count conducted in 2009 pursuant to Code Section
 77 20-2-160 does not exceed a full-time equivalent count of 2,800, the State Board of
 78 Education shall be authorized to waive this paragraph upon the request of a local board
 79 of education or an individual attempting to qualify to run for local board of education
 80 member and in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of Code
 81 Section 20-2-244; provided, however, that prior to submitting any such request, the
 82 local board of education shall, upon its own initiative, or at the request of such
 83 individual attempting to qualify to run for local board of education member:

84 (i) Provide 30 days' notice of the individual's intent to run for office; and
 85 (ii) Conduct a public hearing for the purpose of providing an opportunity for full
 86 discussion and public input on the issue of potential nepotism problems and other
 87 concerns with regard to such waiver. The public hearing shall be advertised at least
 88 seven days prior to the date of such hearing in a local newspaper of general
 89 circulation which shall be the same newspaper in which other legal announcements
 90 of the local board of education are advertised. The public hearing may be conducted
 91 in conjunction with a regular or called meeting of the local board or may be
 92 conducted independently, at the local board's discretion.

93 The cost of such notice and public hearing shall be borne by the local board. The State
 94 Board of Education shall approve or deny a waiver request no later than 45 days after
 95 receipt of such waiver request, taking into consideration whether the benefit to the
 96 public would justify approval of the waiver. An approved waiver must be received by
 97 the local election superintendent prior to an individual's filing of a declaration or notice
 98 of candidacy in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 2 of Title 21.

99 (d) In all counties of this state having a population of not less than 500,000 or more
 100 than 600,000 according to the United States decennial census of 1990 or any future
 101 such census, the members of the county boards of education taking office after
 102 December 1, 1975, shall not hold any other elective governmental office. If any
 103 member of any such board should qualify at any time after December 1, 1975, for
 104 nomination or election to any other elective governmental office other than for
 105 membership on such county board, such member's position on such county board shall
 106 thereby become vacant. Such vacancy shall be filled as provided by the law applicable
 107 to any such county board.

108 (e) In addition to any other requirements provided by law, no person shall be eligible for
 109 election as a member of a local board of education unless he or she:

110 (1) Has read and understands the code of ethics and the conflict of interest provisions
 111 applicable to members of local boards of education and has agreed to abide by them; and

112 (2) Has agreed to annually disclose compliance with the State Board of Education's
 113 policy on training for members of local boards of education, the code of ethics of the
 114 local board of education, and the conflict of interest provisions applicable to members of
 115 local boards of education.

116 Each person offering his or her candidacy for election as a member of a local board of
 117 education shall file an affidavit with the officer before whom such person has qualified for
 118 such election prior to or at the time of qualifying, which affidavit shall affirm that he or she
 119 meets all of the qualifications required pursuant to this subsection. This subsection shall
 120 apply only to local board of education members elected or appointed on or after July 1,
 121 2010.

122 ~~(e)~~(f) No person who is on the National Sex Offender Registry or the state sexual offender
 123 registry shall be eligible for election to or service on a local board of education."

124 **SECTION 3.**

125 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-52, relating to terms of office
 126 of members of local boards of education, as follows:

127 "20-2-52.

128 (a) Members of local boards of education shall be elected for terms of four years unless
 129 their terms are otherwise provided by local Act or constitutional amendment.

130 (b)(1) Each local board of education shall have no more than seven members as provided
 131 by local Act.

132 (2) This subsection shall not apply to a local board of education whose board size
 133 exceeds seven members as provided by local constitutional amendment or federal court
 134 order or pursuant to a local law in effect prior to July 1, 2010; provided, however, that if

135 the local law of any such local board of education is amended to revise the number of
 136 members on such board, paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply."

137 **SECTION 4.**

138 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-55, relating
 139 to per diem, insurance, and expenses of local board members, as follows:

140 "(a)(1) In any local school system for which no local Act is passed, members of the local
 141 board of education shall, when approved by the local board affected, receive a per diem
 142 of \$50.00 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board and while meeting and
 143 traveling within or outside the state as a member of a committee of the board on official
 144 business first authorized by a majority of the board, plus reimbursement for actual
 145 expenses necessarily incurred in connection therewith; provided, however, that in any
 146 independent school system with a full-time equivalent (FTE) program count of less than
 147 4,000 students for which no local Act is passed, members of the local board of education
 148 may, when approved by the affected local board, receive a per diem of not less than
 149 \$50.00 and not more than \$100.00 for each day of attendance at meetings of the board
 150 and while meeting and traveling within or outside the state as a member of a committee
 151 of the board, plus reimbursement for actual expenses. The accounts for such service and
 152 expenses shall be submitted for approval to the local school superintendent. In all school
 153 districts, the compensation of members of local boards shall be paid only from the local
 154 tax funds available to local boards for educational purposes. This paragraph shall apply
 155 only to local board of education members elected or appointed prior to July 1, 2010.

156 (2) In any local school system for which no local Act is passed, members of the local
 157 board of education shall, when approved by the local board affected, receive a per diem
 158 of \$50.00 for each day of attendance at a meeting, as defined in paragraph (2) of
 159 subsection (a) of Code Section 50-14-1, of the board, plus reimbursement for actual
 160 expenses necessarily incurred in connection therewith; provided, however, that in any
 161 independent school system with a full-time equivalent (FTE) program count of less than
 162 4,000 students for which no local Act is passed, members of the local board of education
 163 may, when approved by the affected local board, receive a per diem of not less than
 164 \$50.00 and not more than \$100.00 for each day of attendance at a meeting, as defined in
 165 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 50-14-1, of the board, plus
 166 reimbursement for actual expenses. The accounts for such service and expenses shall be
 167 submitted for approval to the local school superintendent. In all school districts, the
 168 compensation of members of local boards shall be paid only from the local tax funds
 169 available to local boards for educational purposes. This paragraph shall apply only to
 170 local board of education members elected or appointed on or after July 1, 2010."

171 **SECTION 5.**

172 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-57, relating
 173 to organization of county boards of education, as follows:

174 "(a) Unless otherwise provided by local law or, in the absence of local law, by local board
 175 policy, upon being called together by one of their number, the members of the local board
 176 shall organize by selecting one of their number as chairperson to serve as such during the
 177 term for which that person was chosen as a member of the local board. The local school
 178 superintendent shall act as secretary of the local board, ex officio. A majority of the local
 179 board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The votes of a majority of
 180 the members present shall be necessary for the transaction of any business or discharge of
 181 any duties of the local board of education, provided there is a quorum present. Any action
 182 taken by less than a majority of the board members may be rescinded by a majority of the
 183 board members at the next regular meeting or within 30 days of such action, whichever is
 184 later. It shall be the duty of the superintendent ~~or the board's nominee~~ as secretary to be
 185 present at the meetings of the local board, to keep the minutes of its meetings and make a
 186 permanent record of them, and to do any other clerical work it may direct the
 187 superintendent to do. The superintendent ~~or the board's nominee~~ shall ~~record~~ cause to be
 188 recorded in a book, to be provided for the purpose, all official proceedings of the local
 189 board, which shall be a public record open to the inspection of any person interested
 190 therein; and all such proceedings, when so recorded, shall be signed by the chairperson and
 191 countersigned by the secretary."

192 **SECTION 6.**

193 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-61, which is reserved, as
 194 follows:

195 "20-2-61.

196 ~~Reserved.~~

197 (a) The fundamental role of a local board of education shall be to establish policy for the
 198 local school system with the focus on student achievement. The fundamental role of a
 199 local school superintendent shall be to implement the policy established by the local board.
 200 It shall not be the role of the local board of education or individual members of such board
 201 to micromanage the superintendent in executing his or her duties, but it shall be the duty
 202 of the local board to hold the local school superintendent accountable in the performance
 203 of his or her duties. Local board of education members should work together with the
 204 entire local board of education and shall not have authority as independent elected officials
 205 but shall only be authorized to take official action as members of the board as a whole.
 206 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter, limit, expand, or enlarge any powers,

207 duties, or responsibilities of local boards of education, local board members, or local school
 208 superintendents.

209 (b) Except as may be allowed by law, no local board of education shall delegate or attempt
 210 to delegate its policy-making functions."

211 **SECTION 7.**

212 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 20-2-63, which is reserved, as
 213 follows:

214 "20-2-63.

215 ~~Reserved.~~

216 (a)(1) No local board of education member shall use or attempt to use his or her official
 217 position to secure unwarranted privileges, advantages, or employment for himself or
 218 herself, his or her immediate family member, or others.

219 (2) No local board of education member shall act in his or her official capacity in any
 220 matter where he or she, his or her immediate family member, or a business organization
 221 in which he or she has an interest has a material financial interest that would reasonably
 222 be expected to impair his or her objectivity or independence of judgment. Compliance
 223 with Code Section 20-2-505 shall not constitute a violation of this paragraph.

224 (3) No local board of education member shall solicit or accept or knowingly allow his
 225 or her immediate family member or a business organization in which he or she has an
 226 interest to solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise
 227 of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift,
 228 favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value was given or offered
 229 for the purpose of influencing that board member in the discharge of his or her official
 230 duties. This paragraph shall not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of contributions
 231 to the campaign of an announced candidate for elective public office if the local board
 232 of education member has no knowledge or reason to believe that the campaign
 233 contribution, if accepted, was given with the intent to influence the local board of
 234 education member in the discharge of his or her official duties. For purposes of this
 235 paragraph, a gift, favor, loan, contribution, service, promise, or other thing of value shall
 236 not include the items contained in subparagraphs (a)(2)(A) through (a)(2)(J) of Code
 237 Section 16-10-2.

238 (4) No local board of education member shall use, or knowingly allow to be used, his or
 239 her official position or any information not generally available to the members of the
 240 public which he or she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his or her
 241 official position for the purpose of securing financial gain for himself or herself, his or

242 her immediate family member, or any business organization with which he or she is
 243 associated.

244 (5) No local board of education member or business organization in which he or she has
 245 an interest shall represent any person or party other than the local board of education or
 246 local school system in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter
 247 pending before the local school system in which he or she serves or in any proceeding
 248 involving the local school system in which he or she serves.

249 (6) No local board of education member shall be prohibited from making an inquiry for
 250 information on behalf of a constituent if no fee, reward, or other thing of value is
 251 promised to, given to, or accepted by the local board of education member or his or her
 252 immediate family member in return therefor.

253 (7) No local board of education member shall disclose or discuss any information which
 254 is subject to attorney-client privilege belonging to the local board of education to any
 255 person other than other board members, the board attorney, the local school
 256 superintendent, or persons designated by the local school superintendent for such
 257 purposes unless such privilege has been waived by a majority vote of the whole board.

258 (8) No member of a local board of education may also be an officer of any organization
 259 that sells goods or services to that local school system, except as provided in Code
 260 Section 20-2-505 and excluding nonprofit membership organizations.

261 (9) No local board of education member shall be deemed in conflict with this subsection
 262 if, by reason of his or her participation in any matter required to be voted upon, no
 263 material or monetary gain accrues to him or her as a member of any profession,
 264 occupation, or group to any greater extent than any gain could reasonably be expected to
 265 accrue to any other member of that profession, occupation, or group.

266 (b) Upon a motion supported by a two-thirds' vote, a local board of education may choose
 267 to conduct a hearing concerning the violation by a local board of education member of any
 268 conflict of interest provision in subsection (a) of this Code section. The local board of
 269 education member accused of violating said provision shall have 30 days' notice prior to
 270 a hearing on the matter. Said accused member may bring witnesses on his or her behalf,
 271 and the local board of education may call witnesses to inquire into the matter. If it is found
 272 by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the board that the accused member has
 273 violated a conflict of interest provision contained in subsection (a) of this Code section, the
 274 local board shall determine an appropriate sanction. A board member subject to sanction
 275 pursuant to this Code section may, within 30 days of such sanction vote, appeal such
 276 decision to the State Board of Education, which shall be empowered to affirm or reverse
 277 the decision to sanction such board member. The State Board of Education shall

278 promulgate rules governing such appeal process. This subsection shall apply only to local
 279 board of education members elected or appointed on or after July 1, 2010.

280 (c) As used in this Code section, the term 'immediate family member' means a spouse,
 281 child, sibling, or parent or the spouse of a child, sibling, or parent."

282 **SECTION 8.**

283 Said chapter is further amended by adding new Code sections to Article 3, relating to local
 284 boards of education, to read as follows:

285 "20-2-72.

286 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a model code of ethics for members of local
 287 boards of education by October 1, 2010. Such model code of ethics shall also include
 288 appropriate consequences for violation of a provision or provisions of such code. The State
 289 Board of Education may periodically adopt revisions to such model code as it deems
 290 necessary.

291 (b) Within three months of adoption by the State Board of Education of a model code of
 292 ethics pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, each local board of education shall
 293 adopt a code of ethics that includes, at a minimum, such model code of ethics. Each local
 294 board of education shall incorporate into its code of ethics any revisions adopted by the
 295 State Board of Education to the model code of ethics pursuant to subsection (a) of this
 296 Code section within three months of adoption of such revisions.

297 20-2-73.

298 (a) Notwithstanding Code Section 20-2-54.1 or any other provisions of law to the contrary,
 299 if a local school system or school is placed on the level of accreditation immediately
 300 preceding loss of accreditation for school board governance related reasons by one or more
 301 accrediting agencies included in subparagraph (6.1)(A) of Code Section 20-3-519, the State
 302 Board of Education shall conduct a hearing in not less than ten days nor more than 30 days
 303 and recommend to the Governor whether to suspend all eligible members of the local board
 304 of education with pay. If the State Board of Education makes such recommendation, the
 305 Governor may, in his or her discretion, suspend all eligible members of the local board of
 306 education with pay and, in consultation with the State Board of Education, appoint
 307 temporary replacement members who shall be otherwise qualified to serve as members of
 308 such board.

309 (b) Any local board of education member suspended under this Code section may petition
 310 the Governor for reinstatement no earlier than 30 days following suspension and no later
 311 than 60 days following suspension. In the event that a suspended member does not petition
 312 for reinstatement within the allotted time period, his or her suspension shall be converted

313 into permanent removal, and the temporary replacement member shall become a permanent
 314 member and serve out the remainder of the term of the removed member.

315 (c) Upon petition for reinstatement by a suspended local board of education member, the
 316 Governor or his or her designated agent shall conduct a hearing for the purpose of receiving
 317 evidence relative to whether the local board of education member's continued service on
 318 the local board of education is more likely than not to improve the ability of the local
 319 school system or school to retain its accreditation. The appealing member shall be given
 320 at least 30 days' notice prior to such hearing. Such hearing shall be held not later than 90
 321 days after the petition is filed and in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia
 322 Administrative Procedure Act,' except that the individual conducting the hearing shall have
 323 the power to call witnesses and request documents on his or her own initiative. For
 324 purposes of said chapter and any hearing conducted pursuant to this Code section, the
 325 Governor shall be considered the 'agency' and the Attorney General or his or her designee
 326 shall represent the interests of the Governor in the hearing. If it is determined that it is
 327 more likely than not that the local board of education member's continued service on the
 328 local board of education improves the ability of the local school system or school to retain
 329 its accreditation, the member shall be immediately reinstated; otherwise, the member shall
 330 be permanently removed, and the temporary replacement member shall become a
 331 permanent member and serve out the remainder of the term of the removed member or until
 332 the next general election which is at least six months after the member was permanently
 333 removed, whichever is sooner. Judicial review of any such decision shall be in accordance
 334 with Chapter 13 of Title 50.

335 (d) This Code section shall apply only to a local school system or school which is placed
 336 on the level of accreditation immediately preceding loss of accreditation on or after July
 337 1, 2010.

338 (e) This Code section shall apply only to local board of education members elected or
 339 appointed on or after July 1, 2010."

340 **SECTION 9.**

341 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-101, relating
 342 to appointment of county school superintendents, as follows:

343 "(b)(1) No person shall be eligible to be appointed or employed as superintendent of
 344 schools of any county or independent school system unless such person is of good moral
 345 character, has never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude, and
 346 possesses acceptable business or management experience as specified by the Professional
 347 Standards Commission or the minimum valid certificate or a letter of eligibility for said
 348 certificate required by the Professional Standards Commission.

349 (2) No person shall be eligible to be appointed, employed, or to serve as superintendent
 350 of schools of any county or independent school system who has an immediate family
 351 member sitting on the local board of education for such school system or who has an
 352 immediate family member hired as or promoted to a principal, assistant principal, or
 353 system administrative staff on or after July 1, 2009, by that school system. As used in
 354 this subsection, the term 'immediate family member' ~~shall have the same meaning as~~
 355 ~~in subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-51~~ means a spouse, child, sibling, or parent or
 356 the spouse of a child, sibling, or parent whose term as a member of the local board of
 357 education or whose employment as a principal, assistant principal, or system
 358 administrative staff in the local school system began on or after January 1, 2010.
 359 Nothing in this Code section shall affect the employment of any person who is
 360 employed by a local school system on or before July 1, 2009, or who is employed by
 361 a local school system when an immediate family member becomes the superintendent
 362 for that school system."

363 SECTION 10.

364 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-230, relating
 365 to staff development programs, as follows:

366 "(b)(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt a training program for members of local
 367 boards of education by July 1, 2011. The State Board of Education may periodically
 368 adopt revisions to such training program as it deems necessary.

369 (2) Within three months of adoption by the State Board of Education of a training
 370 program pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, each local board of education and
 371 each governing board of other local units of administration shall adopt a training program
 372 for members of such boards that includes, at a minimum, such training program and
 373 requirements established by the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (1) of
 374 this subsection. Each local board of education shall incorporate any revisions adopted
 375 by the State Board of Education to the training program pursuant to paragraph (1) of this
 376 subsection within three months of adoption of such revisions. ~~All new members of~~
 377 ~~governing boards of local units of administration shall, before or within one year after~~
 378 ~~assuming office, receive at least 12 hours of orientation to the educational program~~
 379 ~~objectives of Georgia and instruction in school finance, school law, with special emphasis~~
 380 ~~on the 'Quality Basic Education Act', responsiveness to the community, the ethics, duties,~~
 381 ~~and responsibilities of local governing board members, annual performance evaluation~~
 382 ~~of the school superintendent and the local board of education; and such other topics as~~
 383 ~~the State Board of Education may deem to be necessary; provided, however, that at least~~
 384 ~~six of these 12 hours of training shall be specifically related to education finance,~~

385 ~~generally accepted accounting principles, and budgeting. The board of education of the~~
 386 ~~Department of Juvenile Justice shall be exempt from the six hours of training in education~~
 387 ~~finance, generally accepted accounting principles, and budgeting. All members of boards~~
 388 ~~of local units of administration are required to participate in at least one day of training~~
 389 ~~annually to ensure the effective management and operation of local units of~~
 390 ~~administration. The Georgia Education Leadership Academy is authorized, in~~
 391 ~~cooperation with the Georgia School Boards Association or other agencies and~~
 392 ~~associations, to conduct workshops annually to provide such instruction and to present~~
 393 ~~to each board member completing such annual workshop for the first time an appropriate~~
 394 ~~certificate. The Georgia Education Leadership Academy shall adopt such procedures as~~
 395 ~~may be necessary to verify the attendance at such annual workshops of veteran members~~
 396 ~~of boards of local units of administration.~~

397 (3) All boards of local units of administration are authorized to pay such board members
 398 for attendance at a required training program the same per diem as authorized by local
 399 or general law for attendance at regular ~~or special~~ meetings, as well as reimbursement of
 400 actual expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees for such ~~workshops~~
 401 training, either before or after such board members assume office."

402 **SECTION 11.**

403 The Attorney General of Georgia shall cause Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of this Act to be
 404 submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and
 405 such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or filed with the
 406 appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the
 407 Governor or becomes law without such approval. If, as of June 30, 2011, implementation
 408 of any of the submitted sections of this Act are not permissible under the Voting Rights Act
 409 of 1965, as amended, then as of such date, such section or sections of this Act shall be void
 410 and shall stand repealed in their entirety.

411 **SECTION 12.**

412 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.